

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 181325Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 830

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: UNEASE CONTINUES OVER CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS

REF: BELFAST 51

1. NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICIANS CONTINUE EXPRESS UNEASE OVER VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS PARTICULARLY ROLE INCIDENT CENTERS AND, FOR LOYALISTS, HINTS THAT NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE WILL SEEK REDUCE NUMBER LEGALLY HELD PRIVATE OWNED FIREARMS IN PROVINCE.

2. SECSTATE REES RECEIVED DELEGATION FROM UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) HEADED BY OFFICIAL UNIONIST HARRY WEST FEB. 17. MAIN POINT UUUC PRESENTATION WAS PROTEST AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT INCIDENT CENTERS FOR RAISING STATUS "DEFEATED TERRORISTS TO POSITION OF BEING ACKNOWLEDGED BY GOVERNMENT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF MINORITY AREAS" TO DETRIMENT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THESE AREAS. SECSTATE REPORTEDLY REPEATED ASSURANCE THAT CENTERS WERE MERELY POINTS CONTACT WITH PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN TO ENSURE CEASEFIRE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BREAK DOWN. REES AND GENERAL SIR FRANK KING REPORTEDLY MET HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ARREST OF DAVID
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O'CONNELL OR SEAMUS TWOMEY WOULD STICK WITH REPLY IT DEPENDED

ON REASON FOR ARREST. UUUC DELEGATION ALSO ASSURED THAT FURTHER STUDY WOULD BE GIVEN PROBLEM REDUCTION LEGAL ARMS. REES SCHEDULED RECEIVE ALLIANCE PARTY DELEGATION FEB. 18.

3. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY LEADERS CONTINUED EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT POLICING ROLE PROVISIONAL IRA OR SINN FEIN IN CONJUNCTION WITH ESTABLISHMENT INCIDENT CENTERS. JOHN HUME STATED ON ITV PROGRAM "WEEKEND WORLD" FEB. 16 SDLP TOTALLY AND UTTERLY OPPOSED TO IRA POLICING. SPEAKING FOR PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN ON SAME PROGRAM SEAMUS LOUGHRAN INSISTED SINN FEIN MEMBERS AND OTHERS WOULD BE INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY PEACEKEEPING AND WOULD COOPERATE ONLY WITH ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) TO EXTENT CONDUCTING SUCH INDIVIDUAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS AS FINGERPRINT TECHNICIANS TO SCENE OF INCIDENT. SDLP LEADERS GERRY FITT AND PADDY DEVLIN MET WITH IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD FEB. 17 (SEPTTEL) AND IT BELIEVED ISSUE OF POLICING HIGH ON AGENDA.

4. AT LEAST TWO IRONIC THREADS RUNNING THROUGH POLICING ISSUE. FIRST IS GROWING INDICATION THAT IT BEGINNING OCCUR TO LOYALISTS SDLP MORE PALATABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN AS POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE ULSTER MINORITY. SECOND IT PROBABILITY THAT FOR SDLP RUC MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN IN GUARANTEEING LAW AND ORDER CATHOLIC AREAS.

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